

Remarks

Currently pending are claims 1, 2 and 5-13. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4. No new matter has been added.

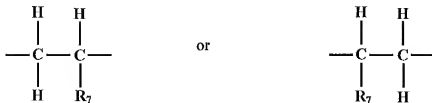
35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 9 by removing "tinctorially effective amount." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoyer et al. (US Pat No 4,323,497). The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 11 and 12 as being anticipated by Lacroix et al. (US Pat No 5,972,084). Applicants traverse these rejections for the following reasons.

As presently claimed, independent claim 1 is directed to a reactive dye of formula (1) having an alkyl substituted aliphatic bridging member B of formulae



wherein R₇ is C₁-C₄ alkyl. The reactive dye of formula (1) also contains two chlorotriazinyl groups.

In comparison, Hoyer et al. does not explicitly disclose a reactive dye containing an alkyl substituted aliphatic bridging member of the above formulae wherein R_7 is C_1-C_4 alkyl as presently claimed. The only aliphatic bridging members specifically disclosed in Hoyer et al. are hexamethylene, tetramethylene and ethylene in Examples 134-153. Moreover, Hoyer et al.'s generic formula encompasses a vast number of compounds and requires one of ordinary skill in the art to randomly pick among a number of different combinations to arrive at the other moieties of formula (1) in Applicants presently claimed invention. Therefore, since one of ordinary skill cannot at once envisage the specific claimed compounds, Harms et al. does not anticipate or render obvious the presently claimed invention.

Similarly, the Lacroix et al. publication does not explicitly disclose a reactive dye containing an alkyl substituted bridging member of the above formulae wherein R_7 is C_1-C_4 alkyl as presently claimed. Furthermore, the dyes disclosed in the Lacroix et al. contain two fluorotriazine moieties in contrast to the dyes in the presently claimed application which contain two chlorotriazinyl groups. Accordingly, Applicants request the rejection of claim 1 in view of Lacroix et al. be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoyer et al. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

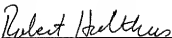
Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claim 1 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 8 of US Pat No 5,750,662. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4 rendering this rejection moot.

Should any fee be due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to deduct said fee from Huntsman Corporation Deposit Account No. 08-3442.

Respectfully Submitted,

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